

Living

Independently -

Forever

Empowered

**Resources for Deaf &
Hard of Hearing**

November 2016

Inspired by Pepnet2's Building State Capacity Summit series, the Montana Team worked hard to create this directory of resources as a way to improve postsecondary options for deaf and hard of hearing students as they transit from secondary education programs. Below is the list of Montana Team members, their roles, and contact information:

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Introduction

The goal of the LIFE manual is to better prepare deaf and hard of hearing students for successful transition from high school to the next phase of their lives by increasing their knowledge about independent living, educational options, career options and knowing how to access those options.

Nation-wide Support

1. [Postsecondary Educational Programs Network \(Pepnet2\)](#)
 - a. Lots of resources on accessibility, accommodation, short trainings, etc.
 - b. Mission: to increase the educational, career and lifetime choices available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - c. Goal: to improve postsecondary outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, including those with co-occurring disabilities
 - d. [Map It!](#)
2. [Hearing Loss of America Association \(HLAA\)](#)
 - a. Great resource for those with a hearing loss
 - b. [Employment Toolkit](#)
3. [National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\)](#)
 - a. Civil rights organization for deaf and hard of hearing individuals
 - b. Mission: to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States of America.
4. [American Association of the Deaf-Blind](#)
 - a. Mission: to ensure that all deaf-blind persons achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community
 - b. Has information clearinghouse on topics related to deaf-blindness
5. [Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. \(TDI\)](#)
 - a. Mission: to provide leadership in achieving equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technologies for deaf and hard of hearing people
6. [Perkins School](#)
 - a. Mission: to prepare children and young adults who are blind with the education, confidence and skills they need to realize their potential.
 - b. [Perkins – School for the blind - eLearning](#)
7. [National Helen Keller Center](#)
 - a. Services and resources for youths and adults with deaf-blindness
8. [iCanConnect \(National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program\)](#)
 - a. offers training, equipment, software for those with vision and hearing loss
9. [Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center](#)

- a. Resources for families with deaf children
- 10. [Gallaudet University Regional Centers](#)
 - a. Click on a Center for more information such as workshops, trainings, resources for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

State-wide Support

1. Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services

- a. Mission: to maximize access in-demand and high-quality careers by Montanans with disabilities seeking dignity through choice, integration, and self-reliance.
- b. Due to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services must spend 15% of the state budget on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). There are specific services that are a part of Pre-ETS:
 - i. Job exploration counseling
 - ii. Work-based learning experiences
 - iii. Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education
 - iv. Workplace readiness training
 - v. Instruction on self-advocacy
- c. To find a vocational rehabilitation counselor in your area, please call 406-444-2590.
- d. [Youth and Pre-Employment Transition Services](#)

2. [Montana Youth Transitions Program](#)

- a. A great resource for youth with disabilities and their families.
- b. Quote from the website: “to improve transition services and increase the number of youth with disabilities who achieve their desired post-school outcomes”
- c. [These are the five MYT regions](#)
- d. MYT offers yearly conference in the fall

3. [Montana Youth Leadership Forum \(MYLF\)](#)

- a. Mission: “to identify students with disabilities who have exhibited leadership skills and equip them with additional training so that they may become leaders by example. MYLF students will expand their knowledge of the culture of disability, learn about all types of disabilities, and meet adults who are living successfully with disabilities.”
- b. Summer career and leadership program

4. Centers for Independent Living
 - a. Offers independent living services such as information/referral, independent living skills training, peer mentoring, individual/systems advocacy, ADA/accessibility technical assistance, rehabilitation technology/adaptive equipment loan/lease, and housing.
 - b. [These are four Independent Living Centers in Montana.](#)
 - c. For more information visit [DPHHS Independent Living Centers](#)
5. [Montana Telecommunication Access Program \(MTAP\)](#)
 - a. Mission: to improve the quality of life for all Montanans through education, innovation, and technology by enhancing communications options.
6. [MonTECH – assistive technology tools and services](#)
 - a. Information/assistance, equipment demonstration, equipment loan services, professional services, programs, and funding/financing
7. Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB)
 - a. Mission: “Education, Communication, and Independence for Life”
This school provides comprehensive educational opportunities for Montana’s students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deafblind, giving them their best chance for independence and success. [Montana School for the Deaf and Blind](#)
 - b. Children and youth from preschool through high school can attend MSDB as residential or day student on the Great Falls campus, where specialized instruction is combined with opportunities to attend classes in the public. [Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Campus](#)
 - c. MSDB also serves as a statewide resource center for families, school district, and professionals serving students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deafblind. Our team of Outreach Consultants serves hundreds of students and families in communities across Montana, and MSDB offers additional outreach programs on campus. [Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Outreach](#)
8. Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
 - a. Marla Swanby, Postsecondary Transition Specialist
 - i. Training to Montana Public Schools related to the development of transition IEPs
 - ii. mswanby@mt.gov

- b. Francisco Román, Deaf-Blind Specialist, Compliance Monitoring Specialist
 - i. Works with families, teachers, and service providers of students with deaf-blindness. He can visit the setting where the student lives or receives services and provide technical assistance in various topics related to deaf-blindness, such as functional vision assessments, classroom observations, communication systems, etc.
 - ii. froman@mt.gov ; 406-444-4426
- 9. Deaf Community
 - a. Montana Association of the Deaf (MAD)
 - b. MAD and local deaf clubs listed on the website below
 - c. [Montana Association of the Deaf](#) and on [Facebook](#)
- 10. Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)
 - a. Private non-profit organization supporting families of children with special needs in Montana
 - b. 800-222-7585; 406-255-0540
 - c. info@pluk.org
 - d. [Parents, Let's Unite for Kids](#)

Post-secondary Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1. [California State University – Northridge \(CSUN\)](#)
 - a. Northridge, CA
 - b. National Center on Deafness – provides accommodations for deaf and hard of hearing students
 - c. 818-677-2054 (v)
 - d. 818-671-4443 (vp)
 - e. ncod@csun.edu
2. [Gallaudet University](#)
 - a. Washington, DC
 - b. 202-651-5000 (v)
 - c. 202-254-2474 (vp) – Admission office
3. [National Technology Institute for the Deaf](#) (at Rochester Institute of Technology)
 - a. Rochester, NY
 - b. 585-475-6400 (v/tty)
 - c. 585-286-4579 (vp) – Admission office
 - d. 585-475-7695 (v/tty) – Pre-College Outreach
4. [Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf at Howard College](#)
 - a. Big Spring, TX
 - b. 432-218-4045 or 432-218-4182 (v/vp)
5. Helen Keller National Center
 - a. Sands Point, NY
 - b. 516-944-8900 x253 (v)
 - c. 516-570-3246 (vp)
 - d. hkncinfo@hknc.org

Additional Resources

1. [College Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students](#)
2. Check your high school for any guide book before graduation.
3. Online resources:
 - a. [Montana Career Information System](#)
 - b. [Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology](#) (in Post Secondary Education)
 - c. [Job Service Montana](#)
 - d. [RevUp Montana](#)
 - e. [Montana Registered Apprenticeship](#)
 - f. [Jobs for Montana's Graduates](#)